1977

Volume 5
Number 3
Fall

NCNA *Journal*

N C N A

C N A

19TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

CAROLINA ELEPHANT TOKENS

1694 PROPRIETERS (Ex. Rare).

JOURNAL

FALL 1977

Volume 5 Number 3

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President's Message

Hi Fellow Members:

This being my last message as your President for this term, I would like to thank each and every one of your for giving me the opportunity to serve as your President of N.C.N.A.. It has been both educational and a great experience for me.

I had planned to give you a rundown on the activity over the past year, but I believe I will wait and do that at our Regular Membership Meeting at our Annual Convention Meeting in Wilmington. Be sure and be there because my message will concern every Officer, Board Member, Club Member, Regular and Junior Members, and anyone who would like to be a Member of N.C.N.A. (don't miss this one).

I believe we have a good group of candidates running for election, so be sure and vote your choice.

I will close for now, so come on down to our 19th Annual Convention on October 14th, 15th, and 16th, 1977, and don't forget to attend the Regular Membership Meeting. I want to tell you in my message how things look for N.C.N.A. when you are looking from the top position down.

See you in Wilmington!

Your President,

Lonnie

Lonnie D. Stewart

TO BE OR NOT TO BE A COLLECTOR

By

Viola A. Braxton

Life becomes a veri-dimensional facet once the urge for a hobby has been planted in the mind. With each accomplishment, the thrill and pleasure mounts. You can make your own horizon.

During the Depresssion in 1933 someone, in making change, gave me a three-cent piece for a dime. At first I felt cheated, then the desire to keep this piece of money was born. Months later, when counting my change, the fifty cent piece in my hand was a 1925 Stone Mountain Commemorative. Needless to say, the Stone Mountain was tucked away with the three-cent piece and a coin collection was in the making.

Years later when I had the opportunity to buy a roll of uncirculated Stone Mountain Commemoratives, I remembered my second find and it did not take me long to decide that tightening the belt was in order so that the coin collection might grown.

Then, on December 12, 1953, under the auspices of the Greensboro Recreation Department and Mr. Tommy Kellam in particular, the Greensboro Coin Club came into being. Walter, my husband, and I were among the forty charter members.

Collecting is great because one meets such nice, interesting, and knowledgeable people. Also, the collecting of coins whets the desire for other collections such as antiques and other varied and sundry items.

I can never remember not having a cat. I raised and bred Registered Seal Point Siamese Cats ten years. It was natural for me to get interested in collecting cat figurines. My first was a small bronze paper weight that I bought in Schiffman's years ago. At antique shows occassionally something interesting can be found. Some four years ago came the big find

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President-Elect James W. Little, with his First Lady Betty, pose for the Journal at the Winston-Salem Coin Club.

Russell E. Southworth, displays a large smile and the Award Medal and Ribbon he received for his Pilgrim Medal Exhibit at the recent ANA Convention.

N.C.N.A. President Lonnie D. Stewart and First Lady "Jim" Stewart at the last meeting of Winston-Salem Coin Club.

COMMUNION TOKENS

By

Autence A. Bason

(Editors Note: Mrs. Bason has advised that there will be a non-competitive display of communion tokens at the NCNA Convention, with one from the St. Paul Presbyterian Church in Robeson County, and one from Bethesda Church in Aberdeen. Judge Oliver Carter has been asked to loan tokens from the old Brown Marsh Church of Clarkston and the 1967 Barbecue Token will be on display also.)

Communion tokens of the Presbyterian Church bearing the names of churches, numbers, or references to the Bible, are interesting side-lights to the study of numismatics.

The word "token" has been identified as a "mark or sign; symbol of good faith or authenticity". It is interesting to note that wherever the word is used in the Bible, it is invariably a "token for good". An exception to this occurs where Judas "That betrayed Him had given them a token", and that token was a kiss.

It has yet to be ascertained at the exact period in in time tokens were first used for sacramental, or communion purposes. That they were in general use in England in 1559 is borne testimonty to in the Books of St. Savior's Church, Southwark, England. The token has been more closely identified with Presbyterianism than with any other sect. It has been in general use in Scotland since 1560, the Year of The Reformation.

These tokens came into general use in the Church in Scotland primarily for religious purposes to ensure that no unworthy person was admitted to Communion. Later, it is said, the tokens were used as admission pieces during the persecution by the Crown, which began in 1638 and continued for fifty years. During that time the Covenanters were not allowed to meet for worship. Many continued to meet in

(Continued on Page 6)

RALEIGH COIN CLUB HAS SUCCESSFUL SHOW

The June 4-5 Coin Show sponsored by the Raleigh Coin Club at the Kerr Scott Building, State Fairgrounds, was a rousing success.

1300 registered visitors traded with the 35 bourse dealers present and viewed 19 separate exhibits of Civil War Tokens, Ancient Coins, Colonial Coins, Bicentennial Coins, Coins of Modern Japan, Ships on Coins, and North Carolina Bank notes, among others.

James Vernon Epps of Lake City,S.C., won Best in Show with his exhibit of U.S. Trade Dollars. Autence Bason and Russell Southworth, both of Greensboro, won Superior ratings with their Communion Tokens and Pilgrim Medals, respectively, displays.

Outstanding Awards were made to Anne P. Carmichael of Raleigh, for English Royal Portraits; Halbert Carmichael of Raleigh, for Provincial Arms; and, James Stachowski of Raleigh, for Type Set Quarters. Stachowski also received a Special Award for First Time Exhibitor.

Halbert Carmichael, President of the Raleigh Coin Club, served as General Chairman for the Show. His able assistants were:

Ted Hendrick	Bourse Chairman
Gary Werner	Exhibits Chairman
Charles Latimer	Regisration
Gary Meyer	Publicity

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(Continued from Page)

secret and tokens were found to be of value in keeping a check on admission to these illegal conventicles, and making it more difficult for spies to betray those attending.

There are thousands of Presbyterians, and other denominations as well, who have never heard of the Communion Token, and would not have the remotest idea of what is meant by the term, or how or where such a token could have been used. Denominations other than the Presbyterians used tokens. The Methodists, Episcopal, and Baptists used both cards and metal tokens, and the missionary zeal of these sects carried the tokens around the world to the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and British colonies throughout the world.

In days when Church discipline had meaning, it was not a joke to him who was, because of scandal, denied the token which entitled him to a seat at the Communion Table; it was not a joke to him who was "ignorant" and did not care to learn, to know that he must commit to memory the Lord's Prayer, Apostles Creed, and the Ten Commandments before he could have his own token, without which he would not only be excluded from the Sacrament, but from certain other church privileges.

Unlike our custom of today of having communion service once a month, they only took place once or twice a year. As the communion season approached, preparatory services were held, usually on Friday or Saturday preceeding the Communion Sunday. Sessions were constituted with prayer, and as each member filed past he received a token from the Minister. Only those who had a token could approach the Communion Table on Sunday.

The tokens are all sizes and shapes, with varied inscriptions. The varieties bear the initial of the town, village, church, or minister, with or without a date. Some bear a text of scripture, a cross, a heart, or a burning bush; others present a view of the church itself. The extreme crudeness of some of the early tokens testifies to their antiquity and

(Continued on Page 9)

EDITORIAL COMMENT

At the final Banquet of the recent ANA Convention, President Grover Criswell severely criticized the U.S. Treasury Department, and its minions in the Mint and Bureau of Engraving & Printing.

The following day the Board of Ana issued an apology to those former and present public officials at the banquet, for President Criswell's statements. While it is reported that there were some inaccuracies in what Colonel Criswell said (and these should have been corrected), the substance of his talk was precisely what everyone in the hobby has been concerned with for a very long time. In essence, it is that the coins produced by the United States are dull, unimaginative, and unappealing, when compared to issues of other countries. It seems obvious to me that the interest of the Mint is on seignorage, i.e., the profit made on coins, and BEP the same on currency.

I have often wondered what the designers and design staff at the Mint do all day, other than make new dies; as their artistic efforts do not seem to be required but a few times in several decades. As an ex-bureaucrat myself, I do know that it lies in the interest of all government employees to fight to the end any changes or innovative ideas that might result in more work for you or even cost you your job. Apparently, they have been successful in persuading political appointees to have similar thoughts. Any successful politician has sense enough to know that if things are going along okay, it is stupid to rock the boat, and when you have a lock on the board you don't have to do anything anyway (except attend Numismatic Association Banquets and Congressional Hearings). You do have to take your chances with the Chicken Salad.

For my money I would like to see the Greek and Roman ladies, and their profiles, which adorn our coins, retired, and replaced by Farrah Fawcett Majors and

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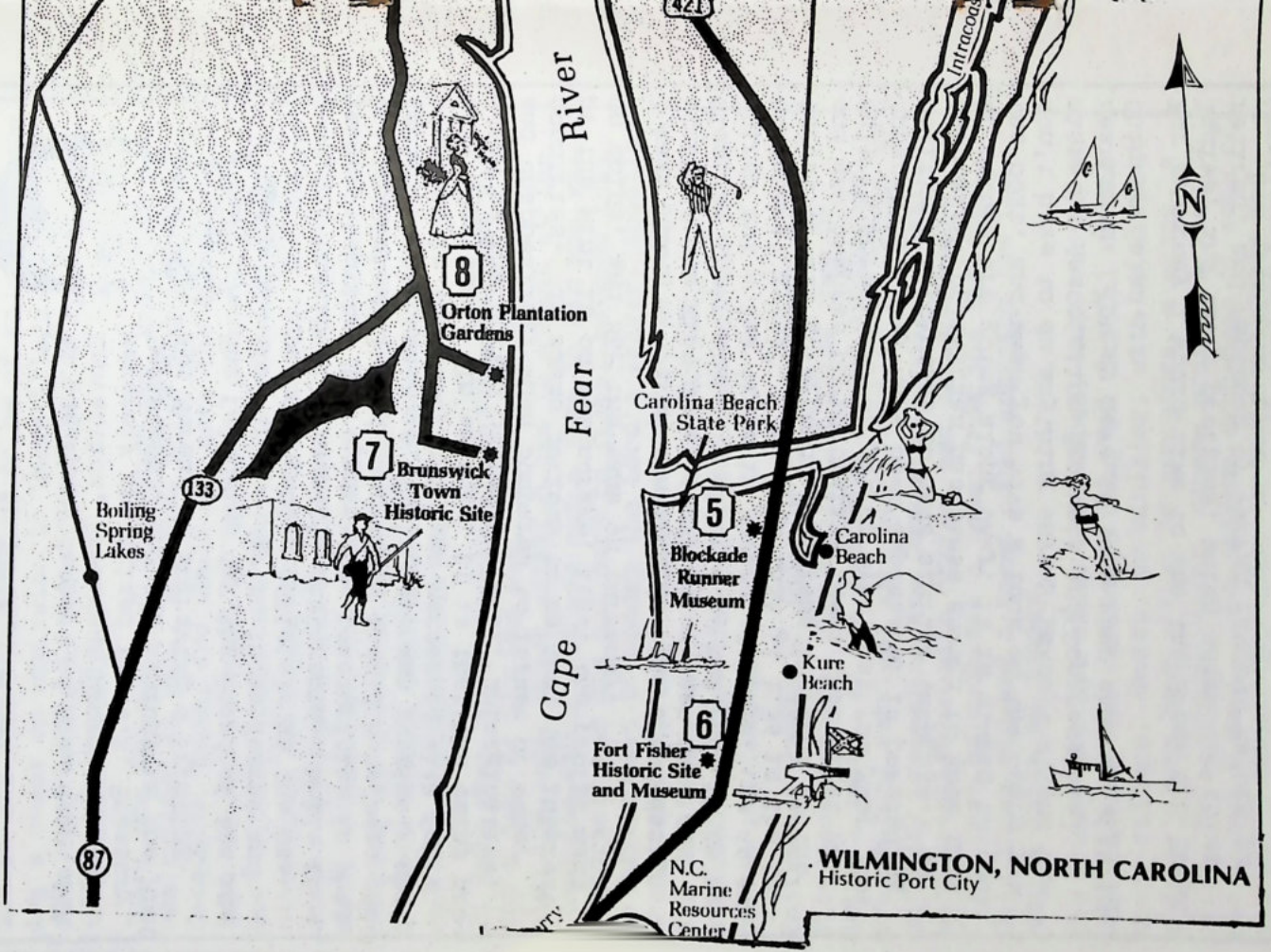
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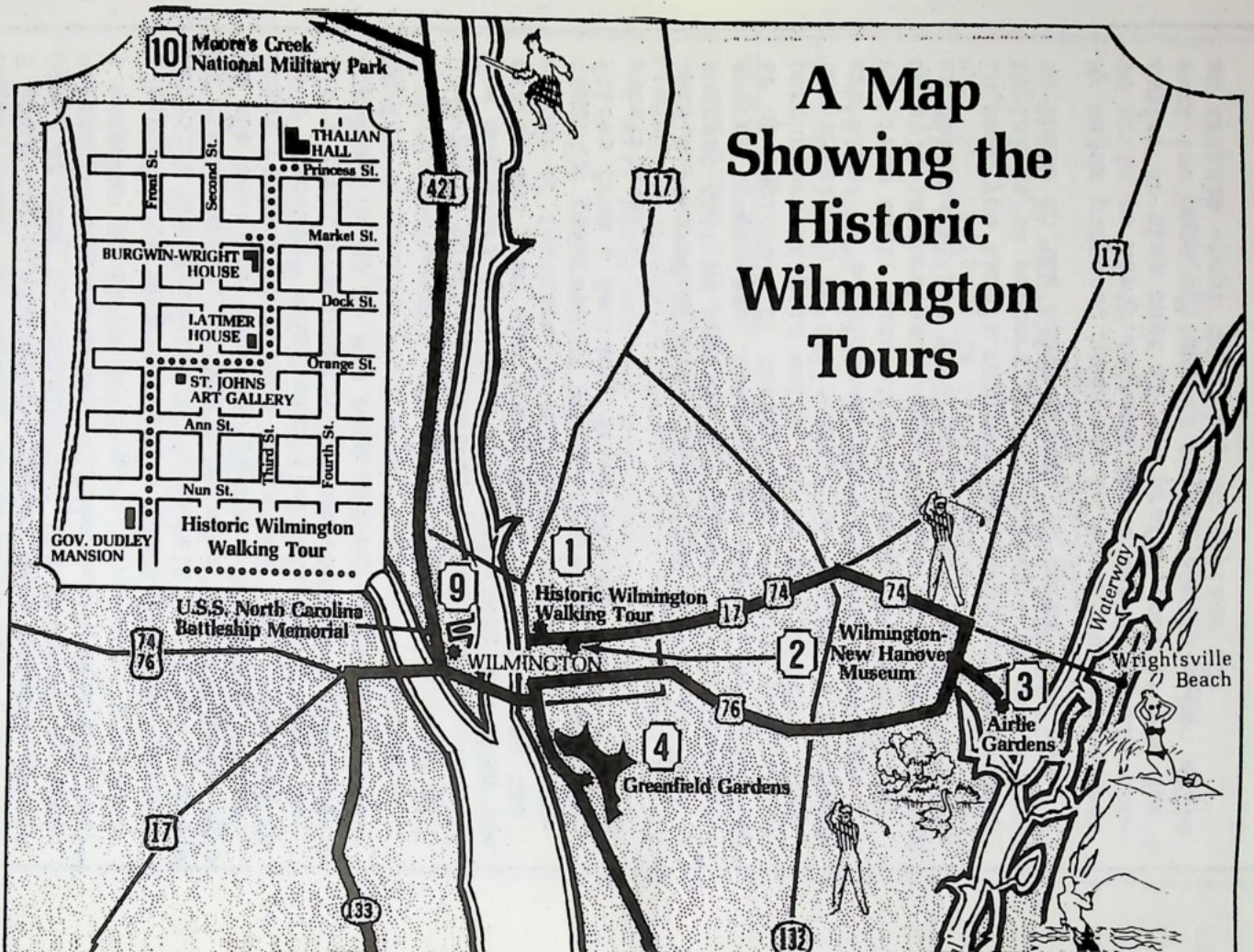
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Second St.
Market St.
BURGWIN-WRIGHT HOUSE
Dock St.
LATIMER HOUSE
Orange St.
ST. JOHNS ART GALLERY
Ann St.
Third St.
Fourth St.
Nun St.
GOV. DUDLEY MANSION
Historic Wilmington Walking Tour
421
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Historic Wilmington Walking Tour
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WILMINGTON
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Wilmington-New Hanover Museum
Waterway
Wrightsville Beach
3
Airlie Gardens
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4
Greenfield Gardens
17
133
132

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Raquel Welch, preferably in their Bikinis. In fact, I would not mind having Groucho Marx replace Dwight David or John F.--considering the value of a cupronickel fifty cent piece or dollar, there ought to be a comedian on these coins.

I think it is time to retire Tom Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and Franklin D. Roosevelt. Since the South is rising again, it would be nice if Jeff Davis were on the cent for 20 or 30 years. President Truman might replace Jefferson as he was often referred to as a "two-bit" politician (personally, I think he was a great President). Lyndon Johnson might replace Franklin D. as he was also strong on welfare statehood.

Frankly, it would probably be a nice change if we used State birds or flowers, or animals on coins. The engravers have done about all they can with the eagle, and I am also very tired of estimating the number of feathers on his wings and breast in grading the reverses of coins. Perhaps crossed drumsticks from a Kentucky Fried Chicken would do as a substitute.

Should we ever produce gold coins again, I would suggest that we use the profiles of various heads of energy companies. Since it is likely that the higher up employees of these firms would be the main purchasers of gold coins, it is only fitting that the wheels be on the coins. Of course, a few bankers might be considered, particularly those who borrow from their bank at no interest as they should be able to purchase large numbers and then use them as collateral for more no interest loans.

In case you hadn't noticed the thrust of this editorial is to support Grover Criswell in his efforts to shake up the beauracracy. I agree with him.

My major purpose, however, is to encourage readers to write me nasty letters about the foregoing comments, or nice ones if you prefer, or, if you don't want two page editorials in the Journal then write an article about the hobby to replace it!

(Continued from Page 6)

and shows that hands unskilled in the die-cutters art have made them. Many of the ministers had to make their own tokens and occassionally the services of the village blacksmith were obtained. Earlier specimens were invariably of lead, being cheaper and more readily made. Later tokens are found in brass, bronze, and white metal. There are at least two churches known to have tokens struck in silver- The Crown Chapel in London, England, and the First Presbyterian Church in Charleston, South Carolina. The token of the First Presbyterian Church of New York City, was made in ivory.

Until recent years no attempt has been made to form collections of these "leaden foot-prints of Church history". It is impossible to form a complete collection as when new tokens were required the old ones were melted down.

SOUTHWORTH TAKES THIRD PLACE MEDAL AWARD AT ANA

Entering exhibit competition for the first time at an ANA Convention, NCNA Secretary-Treasurer Russell E. Southworth won the Third Place Award in the competition for the Burton Saxton Memorial Award in the Medals Class for his exhibit Building a Pilgrim Medal Collection.

Russell was the only entrant from North Carolina receiving an Award, and NCNA is justly proud of him for his achievement.

The Southworth exhibit will be on display at the forthcoming NCNA Convention in Wilmington, N.C., on October 14, 15, & 16.

Elsewhere in this issue is a photograph of Russell with his award medal and ribbon.

NCNA NEEDS MEMBERS - SIGN UP ONE

NCNA CONVENTICNEERS TO VIEW BECHTLER GOLD

In the event that you do not recognize the 5 dollar gold coins above, they are an issue minted by the Bechtlers, Christopher and August, in Rutherford County between 1830 and 1852.

Just prior to press time, the Journal learned from Mrs. Autence Bason, Exhibit Chairwoman for the NCNA Convention, that Mr. Keith Strawn, Director of Collections for the N.C. Museum of History, had accepted her invitation to exhibit the Bechtler Gold Coins purchased by the Museum several years ago from the collection of Dr. Walter Lee Crouch of Wilmington. The Museum paid approximately $270,000 for the coins and a number of uncut sheets of N.C. Bank Notes.

Readers may recall that a story in the Spring Issue of the Journal reported an interview with Mr. Strawn and the fact that the Museum of History had no numismatic display wherein the Bechtler purchase and other numismatic rarities belonging to the Museum could be viewed by the public. At that time, Mr. Strawn had grave doubts that the General Assembly would appropriate funds to the Museum to erect an adequate display, estimated to cost about $30,000.

Consequently, the Journal is delighted that the Museum will exhibit the Bechtler Gold at the NCNA Convention in October, and give those of us who have a primary interest in numismatics an opportunity to view these artifacts.

The Bechtlers produced the first gold dollar in the United States. While technically a private issue, the coins were accepted as legal tender in several states. They play an important part in the numismatic history of North Carolina and of the United States.

BALLOTS MAILED FOR N.C.N.A. OFFICERS AND BOARD

On September 12, 1977, Secretary-Treasurer Russell E. Southworth mailed Ballots to N.C.N.A. Members for voting for Officers and Board Members for 1978.

James W. Little, Winston-Salem, N.C., is unopposed as the Presidential candidate, as is Russell E. Southworth for Secretary Treasurer.

For the office of First Vice President, N.C. N.A. is fortunate in having three well qualified candidates-James W. Jackson, Jr., of Greensboro; Thomas S. (Rip) Ryon, Jr., of Raleigh; and, Lonnie Stewart of Winston-Salem.

Three candidates for the office of Second Vice Pres. have been nominated: G.G. Finnell of Highland; Forrest M. Michael of Lexington; and, Ray F. West of Asheville.

To serve three year terms on the Board of Directors, seven candidates are running for the three positions open: Dr. Paul K. Ausley of Kings Mountain; Cary A. Gilbert, Sr., of Greensboro; C. L. Helderman of Gold Hill; John L. Latham, Jr. of Greensboro; David D. Porter of Swansboro; Daniel L. Talbert of Jacksonville; and, William J. Wright of Asheville.

N.C.N.A. is fortunate in having so many well-qualified candidates to run the Associations' business for the upcoming year.

Voting for the above candidates may take place any time between the receipt of the ballots from the Secretary until 6:00 PM of the second business day of the Convention (October 14, 15, 16, 1977) in Wilmington, N.C.. Following the close of balloting the Election Committee will canvass all ballots and notify the President of the Association of the duly elected officers and Board Members.

Members are urged to return their ballots to the Secretary in the return envelopes mailed with the ballots as soon as possible.

EAGLE COIN CLUB SHOW BIG SUCCESS

President Eddie Carter said the Eagle Coin Club of Lexington, N.C., had a very successful show at the National Guard Armory the weekend of September 17th and 18th. The Show had originally been scheduled in March, but was cancelled due to a fuel shortage.

President Carter, who also served as Show Chairman, stated that Bourse Chairman Bill Woodruff had advised him that all but three spaces had been taken by dealers, and all dealers appeared pleased by the traffic at the Show.

GARNER RECOVERING

The Journal has been advised that N.C.N.A. Board Member Earl Garner has been seriously ill recently, but is now recovering. The Journal sincerely hopes he will have a rapid recovery and can be with us at our 19th Annual Convention.

COIN SHOW CALENDAR

October 14, 15, 16, N.C.N.A. 19th Annual Convention and Coin Show. Wilmington Hilton Hotel, Wilmington N.C. Ted H. Hendrick, PO Box 12052, Raleigh, N.C. 27605.

October 21,22,23, Middle Atlantic Numismatic Assn. 25th Annual Convention & Coin Show, Sheraton Inn, New Carrollton, Md.. Ted Hendrick, P.O. Box 12052, Raleigh, N.C. 27605.

The above are the only shows the Journal has dates on at this time. We anticipate a Raleigh Coin Club Show in December.

GET A NEW MEMBER FOR NCNA-DO IT NOW! NOW! NOW! NOW!

(Continued from Page 2)

of my cat collection--a Sleeping Cat done by Bill Rodwell in silver in 1969.

My rules for collecting are:

Is it pleasing to the eye?
Will it grow in value over the years?
Can I pay for it?
Will I derive pleasure from using and living with it year after year?

There is a Blue Glass, Milk Glass, and Bristol, that is my weakness. Pink Willow hits me between the eyes. Cut glass is appealing, sterling and most silver gives me a thrill, and mirrors and lamps are a must. Marble top furniture gives me a lift.

There are always so many interesting things to see and do that each day of my life I try to say thank you God for this another day in which to enjoy the bounty of the earth and Thy abiding love.

ANA GRADING STANDARDS IN NOVEMBER

Kenneth Bressett of Western Publishing Company, and Editor of the proposed ANA Grading Guide, announced at the recent ANA Convention that the Guide will be published in November. Numismatic publications recently published a part of the text dealing with grading on the ½ Cent, which indicated that much of the confusion of the numerical designation of coins (United States), such as MS-65, etc., will be resolved by giving coins in a particular grade numbers which will indicate whether the coin is a Choice in that grade or Typical (apparently average).

Many major coin dealers have advertised for months that they will adhere to the new standards when published. It is anticipated, however, that revisions in the Guide will take place for several years as it is a monumental work which has been done for the sake of expediency in publishing rather than extreme accuracy. Well, goodbye to the GEMMY GEMMY BU!

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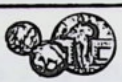

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DOES THE NCNA JOURNAL HAVE A FUTURE?

The purpose of the Journal is to provide information on NCNA activities and print educational articles on numismatic subjects. The funds to publish it are derived from member dues and advertising. We need many more members and a lot more advertising if we are to continue publication of even the limited format used at the present time. We must also have something to publish. The only articles submitted for publication for the last three issues have been from NCNA Members in Greensboro. Only three club secretaries have advised us of their club activities. All work done in publishing the Journal is done by two NCNA Members--neither of whom is reimbursed for their efforts. It takes a lot of work and a lot of time on their part, time that they would prefer to spend on other things. The lack of interest and support from the membership has caused them to question as to whether or not the continued publication of the Journal is worthwhile, and, they are going to discuss this with the Board of Directors at the Convention in Wilmington.

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